

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

formulating a discovery information query at a console or at one or more network devices, the console includes a managing device for the one or more network device, wherein the discovery information query is initiated automatically or by a user;

sending the discovery information query to a plurality of third-party Internet search engines ~~engine~~ to facilitate searching of discovery information relevant to the one or more network devices, ~~wherein the search engine includes a query formulation device to input one or more of the following parameters: type of network devices, status of network devices, and capabilities of network devices;~~

in response to sending the discovery information query, receiving discovery information from the plurality of third-party Internet search engines ~~engine~~, wherein the discovery information includes Internet Protocol (IP) addresses for the one or more network devices; and

using the retrieved discovery information to generate a network topology map for the one or more network devices.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising searching the discovery information by retrieving via the plurality of third-party Internet search engines ~~engine~~ the discovery information in one or more files based on the discovery information query, wherein the plurality of third-party Internet search engines ~~include engine~~ ~~includes~~ an extensible markup language (XML)-based search engine, and the one or more files include one or more XML-based files.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising manipulating the retrieved discovery information.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising displaying the manipulated discovery information.
5. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing sets of instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to:

formulate a discovery information query at a console or at one or more network devices, the console includes a managing device for the one or more network devices, wherein the discovery information query is initiated automatically or by a user;

send the discovery information query to a plurality of third-party Internet search engines ~~engine~~ to facilitate searching of discovery information relevant to the one or more network devices, ~~wherein the search engine includes a query formulation device to input one or more of the following parameters: type of network devices, status of network devices, and capabilities of network devices;~~

in response to the sending of the discovery information query, receive discovery information from the plurality of third-party Internet search engines ~~engine~~, wherein the discovery information includes Internet Protocol (IP) addresses for the one or more network devices; and

use the retrieved discovery information to generate a network topology map for the one or more network devices.

6. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 5, wherein the sets of instructions which, when executed by the machine, further cause the machine to search the discovery information by retrieving via the plurality of third-party Internet search engines ~~engine~~ the discovery information in one or more files based on the discovery information query, wherein the plurality of third-party Internet search engines include ~~engine includes~~ an XML-based search engine, and the one or more files include one or more XML-based files.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 6, wherein the sets of instructions which, when executed by the machine, further causes the machine to manipulate the retrieved discovery information.
9. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 8, wherein the sets of instructions which, when executed by the machine, further cause the machine to display the manipulated discovery information.

Claims 10-25 (Cancelled)